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LETTER DATED 11 MARCH 1991 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF HONDURAS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring the following to your attention.

On 22 February 1991 at 5 a.m., in the sector of Jamastran, which is on the border with Nicaragua, in the village of San Antonio, Conchagua, El Paraíso department, a Honduran patrol, under the command of Lieutenant Vicente Danilo Puerto Martínez, captured the following war matériel:

(a) Thirty-five (35) rocket-propelled grenades (RPG-7)

(b) Four (4) bags containing slow fuses for explosives

(c) Five (5) packages containing electric starters

(d) Forty-one (41) RPG launchers

(e) Thirteen (13) ICOM radio transmitter-receivers

(f) Sixty-nine (69) boxes containing non-electric starters

(g) One (1) wallet containing information relating to the vehicle and a document in the name of Felipe González Rodríguez showing that he was collaborating with the Sandinist People's Army.

The above-mentioned supplies were being transported by a Honduran national, Rafael Arnulfo Aroca, in a red Ford vehicle belonging to him, which was proceeding from the Dificultades sector towards Zamorano.

In a statement to the Honduran and international press, Mr. Rafael Arnulfo Aroca, who for purposes of this arms shipment operation was going by the name of Felipe González Rodríguez, said, inter alia, that the supplies were intended for the Cinchoneros subversive group in Honduras and that they had been delivered to him on 21 December 1990 in La Laguna, Nueva Segovia department, by a Nicaraguan, Captain Francisco Javier Benavidez, who had given him a safe

conduct, showing that he was "collaborating with the Department of Defence Information", which enabled him to enter and leave Nicaragua. He said that he had taken the matériel to his farm which is located in the village of Dificultades, on the frontier, and had stored it in a "mailbox" made for that precise purpose.

He also stated that his first contact with members of the Frente Sandinista, early in November 1990, had been made through Clemente Duarte Ferrufino, a Honduran who collaborates with that front and who had put him in touch with an individual, known by the name of "Captain Ivan". The latter had been involved in the sale of missiles to the guerrillas of El Salvador and, upon being discovered, had fled to the Republic of Costa Rica and been replaced by another military man by the name of Emilio. Mr. Aroca said that "Captain Ivan" was the principal in the affair, but that Lenin, Roberto, Israel and others had also helped.

My Government is deeply concerned at the above-mentioned incident, which reveals an intention of continuing to fuel subversion in the Central American region and I am sending a letter this very day to General Lewis MacKenzie, chief of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America, a copy of which is attached.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed for information purposes, as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario Carías ZAPATA
Minister

Annex

Letter dated 11 March 1991 addressed to the chief of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 1 March 1991, concerning the confiscation, on 22 February 1991, of a quantity of war supplies in the Jamastran sector by the Honduran Armed Forces, and also concerning the letter from this Ministry dated 23 February and your letter of 25 February.

In reply, I should like to inform you that the Government of Honduras wants and would be very grateful if the United Nations Observer Group in Central America could conduct, within the mandate given to ONUCA in Security Council resolution 644 (1989), an investigation into the origin of, and other aspects relating to, the war supplies which have been confiscated.

(Signed) Mario Carías ZAPATA
Minister